

## 2009 RECOVERY ACT FUNDS

*On February 17, 2009, President Obama signed into law the landmark American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (the "Recovery Act"). The Recovery Act provides the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) with funding for grants to assist State, local, and tribal law enforcement (including support for hiring), to combat violence against women, to fight internet crimes against children, to improve the functioning of the criminal justice system, to assist victims of crime, and to support youth mentoring.*

*This is the Nebraska State Patrol's portal for informing citizens about the use of federal stimulus funding received under the Recovery Act. The site provides accountability and transparency on how stimulus funds are being spent by our agency. Please explore this site to obtain information about the Recovery Act programs implemented by the Nebraska State Patrol. Links to quarterly updates will provide recent information as the projects progress.*

*Thank you,  
Colonel Bryan Tuma*

The Nebraska State Patrol received Recovery grant funds for the following programs.

### **INTERNET CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN (ICAC)**

The national ICAC Task Force Program supports a national network of 59 multiagency, multijurisdictional task forces engaged in investigations, forensic examinations, and prosecutions related to Internet crimes against children and technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation. Additionally, the task forces provide forensic and investigative technical assistance to law enforcement and prosecutorial officials, as well as community education to parents, educators, prosecutors, law enforcement, and others concerned with child victimization.

Nebraska's ICAC Task Force is coordinated by the Nebraska State Patrol and operates with affiliate agencies consisting of federal, state and local law enforcement and prosecutorial agencies. Recovery funding supports personnel, training, equipment, and information technology consultants.

### **ASSISTANCE TO RURAL LAW ENFORCEMENT TO COMBAT CRIME AND DRUGS PROGRAM: FACILITATING CRIMINAL JUSTICE INFORMATION**

Recovery funds through the Bureau of Justice Assistance were awarded to assist law enforcement in rural states and rural areas through improving the criminal justice system and assisting communities to prevent and combat crime and drugs. The Nebraska State Patrol received funding to support the state's Fusion Center. This project will: 1) Create jobs, 2) continue and enhance public and private sector information sharing partnerships, and 3) enhance criminal justice information sharing for rural law enforcement agencies. The Nebraska Fusion Center process will provide the basis upon which information-sharing strategies are built. Public and private partners will gain access to electronic criminal justice information that has to date, been unavailable due to lack of a statewide method to collect and exchange information.

Nebraska's Fusion Center is housed and administered by the Nebraska State Patrol. Specifically, Recovery funds will 1) hire and assign three employees to this project, 2) develop a web-based portal for access to information provided through the Fusion Center, 3) increase partners who share intelligence and critical asset information, 4) enhance crime analysis capabilities with the purchase of mapping software, and 5) create a database to share critical infrastructure and key resource information. Efficiencies and enhancements created in criminal justice information sharing will lead to the identification and arrest of criminal and drug offenders.

Project efforts will be coordinated with criminal justice agencies whose information will be accessible through the Fusion Center. The Fusion Center Advisory Board and Nebraska State Patrol will serve as a liaison to local law enforcement, other government agencies, criminal justice organizations and private sector entities that will participate in the fusion center process.

## **MID AND UPPER LEVEL ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM**

The Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice (Crime Commission) awarded Recovery grant funds for the purpose of continuing the Mid and Upper Level Enforcement (MULE) drug and violent crime project. Recovery funds allowed the Nebraska State Patrol to retain funding for thirteen employees. The MULE project focuses on three major areas in Nebraska's drug enforcement effort:

- 1) Investigation of mid and upper level drug offenses by working in tandem with, and in some instances as members of, Nebraska's multi-jurisdictional drug task forces,
- 2) Enhancement of the State Crime Laboratory's ability to perform drug analysis in a timely manner, and
- 3) Improvement of drug intelligence collection and dissemination

## **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE/SEXUAL ASSAULT PROGRAM**

The Domestic Violence Sexual Assault (DV/SA) Program serves as a statewide law enforcement resource for domestic violence and sexual assault cases and issues. Recovery funds, awarded through the Nebraska Crime Commission, allow the program to maintain current services by funding a Program Assistant and purchasing supplies for 'safety kits'. The kits provide necessities for victims who are at the hospital or unable to return home for safety reasons.

Recovery funds enhance DV/SA investigations by funding the purchase of infrared cameras. In addition, the project will bring national experts in to Nebraska to conduct a free 2-day "Sexual Assault Investigations" training for law enforcement during Fall 2010. The Nebraska State Patrol Crime Lab utilizes these funds to purchase equipment that will enhance their abilities in analyzing sexual assault kits.

*Use the links below for additional information about jobs created and expenditures.*

<http://www.Recovery.gov>

<http://www.Recovery.Nebraska.gov>